

Proclamation 4784 of August 26, 1980

National Employ the Handicapped Week, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation is moving strongly toward greater equality for people with physical and mental disabilities.

The United Nations has designated next year as the International Year of Disabled Persons. As President, I not only reaffirm this country's commitment to equality for handicapped individuals, I intend to make every effort to see that the coming decade is one in which their aspirations are fulfilled.

We must do all we can to give the handicapped maximum independence, full access to our society, and the opportunity to develop and use their talents and skills. This must be done case by case, event by event, and program by program. Working together, we can make certain that disabled people at last enter completely into the mainstream of our great society.

To affirm our commitment to independence for handicapped individuals, the Congress, by joint resolution of August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 155), has called for the designation of the first full week in October each year as National Employ the Handicapped Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning October 5, 1980, as National Employ the Handicapped Week, I urge all Governors, Mayors, other public officials, leaders in business and labor, and private citizens at all levels of responsibility to help remove the barriers to equal opportunity for handicapped individuals and to help them in their search for productive employment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4785 of August 26, 1980

Women's Equality Day, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America struck a blow for justice on August 26, 1920, when the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, became law. On this 60th anniversary, American women and men recall how far we have come on the road toward equal opportunity for all Americans and reaffirm our commitment to full equality for women. We celebrate today the achievements

of the past, but even more we celebrate our dream for a future in which all Americans share equally in the rights and responsibilities of this land.

Social and political change is never easy, as we know by the sacrifices of the early Suffragists. Courageous and high-principled, these women wrote, marched and argued for their cause through long years of delay and disappointment, but they never accepted defeat. Only a few weeks before her death at 86, Susan B. Anthony addressed a convention on the theme, "Failure is impossible!" They knew the rightness of their cause, and found the will and courage to create a climate of change. We can best honor their memory today by continuing their crusade.

In the intervening years women have faithfully carried out responsibilities at all levels of government, in every area of employment and education, and in the nurturing of families and children. Yet many of the rights that should accompany those responsibilities are missing. Despite our hard-won progress, the rights of women vary from state to state. The Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, which would set a clear national standard outlawing discrimination against women, is still an unfulfilled promise. Thanks to the efforts of millions of women and men, 35 states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. We have until June, 1982, to complete the ratification process in three more states and make the principle of equality a Constitutional guarantee.

Today, I reaffirm my own commitment to make the Equal Rights Amendment part of our Constitution. I urge all Americans to rekindle the spirit of early Suffragists, to use their energies, their wisdom and their compassion to achieve full equality for women. To advance the cause of women's rights is to advance the cause of human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 26, 1980 as Women's Equality Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

JIMMY CARTER

Editorial Note: The President's remarks of Aug. 26, 1980, on signing Proclamation 4785, are printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 16, p. 1572).

Proclamation 4786 of August 29, 1980

Working Mothers' Day, 1980

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In greater numbers than ever before, American mothers are taking on important job responsibilities outside the home. In workplaces across our Nation and in every occupation, more than 16 million employed mothers are contributing their valuable skills to the labor force. In fact, more than half of all the mothers in this country have taken on jobs outside the home, and it is estimated that by 1990, 75% of all two-parent families will have both parents in the work force.